Chapter 122: The Titan Fortress Ruins
Thirty-one years after the death of Himmel the hero
Imperial territory Titan fortress ruins
Look how large the castle ruins are.
It looks rather plain, doesn't it?
The Titan fortress.
It was once an impregnable stronghold...
...used during the war against the demon army.
It's not showy because it was built to be practical.
The empire fought for many years against the demons, so it suited them perfectly.
Was there any lord living there if it used to be a fortress?
Count Armée.
His family ruled this area for generations.
Well, from the look of it, even they couldn't hold out against the current of time.
The family was more of a band of warriors than a noble house.
They liked showing off their muscles too...
They weren't like typical nobility?
Don't nobles need to appear prestigious and graceful?
Authority *and* elegance are necessary in the central lands and inland areas of the empire.
That depends on the era and where they're located.
How come?
Because those places are at peace.
In contrast, those qualities aren't very significant in areas that are constantly under demonic threat.
They may need authority, but they don't need grace.
They don't need to act like typical nobles.
And why's that?
Because military power alone is enough to gain respect.
Authority and elegance matter for most nobles because they need people's respect.
But in dangerous places, such refinement isn't necessary.
That makes sense.
This fortress really is massive, isn't it?
...
What's wrong, Frieren?
Someone is fighting a monster somewhere nearby.
That's bad.
Let's go help them, quick!
Yes, let's.
Hold on.
We might not need to.
HMPH!
KRAK
CLAP
CLAP
Wow...
I've never seen someone use wrestling techniques on a monster before.
I didn't expect to run into adventurers in a place like this.
Are you an adventurer too, old man?
The way I look, I don't blame you for thinking that.
My name is Armée.
Huh?
Wasn't Armée...?
Yes, Count Armée.
Remember the story I told you earlier? It's the name of the family that used to rule this region.
It's been a while since someone called me by that title.
You're a noble?!
Please forgive my rudeness.
I beg you, anything but beheading...
Please, raise your head.
My family was brought to ruin during my grandfather's time, and we lost our peerage and our land.
My grandfather was a gifted warrior but unskilled in politics.
I was just a child back then.
I witnessed my family's downfall without understanding a thing about it.
I'm nothing but a mercenary now.
And what are you doing here?
Well...
This is actually perfect. I have a request for you, adventurers...
I see.
There are hidden treasures in a secret chamber under the fortress...
Yes.
However, there are hordes of monsters inside...
...and I couldn't reach that chamber on my own.
They tore my clothes off, as you can see...
...and now I'm ashamed to be walking around half-naked.
RIP
I thought you were dressed like that on purpose.
What reward can you offer?
Okay...
You look disappointed...
How about half of the treasure?
It's enough money to live out the rest of your lives without working.
Well, that's not the issue.
And I don't think it'd be enough for the rest of *my* life...
Don't you have any grimoires?
A grimoire...
I do have this note that shows how to cast "The spell to keep your body nice and warm." I use it all the time.
Deal.
A useful spell for once.
So that's why he's fine with being half-naked.
All right...
Let's get this over with.
The entrance to the basement is through here.
This one must be the boss of the monster horde.
Its mana is incredibly powerful.
All of you, get to safety before it's too late.
The northern part of the continent really is full of troublesome creatures.
No, we'll stick together until the very end.
You're here for the treasure that your family left, right?
You deserve as much of that legacy as you can get.
But I can't let you risk your lives for such a trivial spell...
It's not trivial to me.
Hey, Flamme.
What?
You're getting old.
That's not a very nice thing to say.
You wouldn't like it if I said you still look like a little brat, would ya?
Why do humans even bother to learn magic...
...when they get old and die so quickly.
Because we can't reach the pinnacle of magic?
Is that what you're trying to say?
Frieren...
What theory am I studying at the moment?
The theory of irreversibility.
And how many theories have I discovered so far?
That's all the proof I need that I've lived my life as a mage.
Even after I grow old and die, my theories will lead to the creation of many other spells.
I'm sure that one day you'll personally experience...
...the impact of my study of magic.
Over a hundred.
What do you mean?
I'm saying that I'll leave a gift for this world.
More spells than you could ever learn even if you spend your whole life trying.
I may have lost my lands and title...
...but I got this back, at least.
Proof of the Armée family's existence.
I'm forever in your debt.
Are you sure you don't want a share of this treasure?
This spell is more important to me.
How is it, Stark?
Do you feel nice and warm?
Yeah.
But not enough to go around half-naked...
The same as usual, then.

← Previous Chapter

Next Chapter →